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# Say No to Faithwashing: Boycott Muslim Leadership Initiative

[January 14, 2015](#) [February 18, 2015](#) [admin](#) [Support for the Boycott Muslim Leadership Initiative, Palestine](#)

We as organizations, groups, and individuals committed to Palestinian self-determination call on the Muslim community in North America to eschew any and all participation, facilitation, or any form of legitimization for the Muslim Leadership Initiative of the Shalom Hartman Institute and its representatives or advocates.

Just a few months following Israel's latest assault on Gaza, which killed 2,200 Palestinians, and during this time when activists worldwide are working to strengthen campaigns to hold Israel accountable for its continued denial of Palestinian rights through tactics such as boycotts, divestment, and sanctions (BDS), it is distressing to learn that Muslim American chaplains, journalists, academics, and cultural workers are being approached and a small yet growing number are participating in an initiative that is a clear propaganda attempt by the Israeli organization Hartman to "influence the North American Muslim community in reassessing its preconceived notions of Judaism and Israel." MLI participants are ignoring Palestinian calls to isolate Israel and are taking part in a program sponsored by an organization involved in efforts to thwart BDS. (It should also be noted that Hartman is funded by one of a handful of major financiers of extreme Islamophobic groups in the United States.)

We reject the notion that this program is an interfaith one and that there is the need for Muslim Americans to engage with the state of Israel or institutions complicit in its war crimes.

We believe in the potential power of interfaith cooperation but only when it stands on the common values

of freedom, justice, and equality such as the Interfaith Boycott Coalition launched in January 2013 or the more than 50 delegations Interfaith Peace-Builders has led to Palestine. In regards to Muslim-Jewish relations, we reject outright both the notion that what is happening in Palestine is a “religious conflict” and the conflation between Zionism, Israeli state policies, and Judaism. Jewish groups such as Jewish Voice for Peace and the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network have been dedicated partners in the fight for Palestinian rights.

We strongly believe in the need for increased engagement by Muslim Americans with the issue of Palestine but only in ways that promote Palestinian liberation and comply with Palestinian demands.

We pledge to not give a platform to any MLI participant to speak about their experiences at our community centers, places of worship, and campuses and call on a complete boycott of MLI. We pledge to be in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle and to do so by honoring the BDS call. We pledge to engage with Palestinians in our communities and support delegations to Palestine that are meant to highlight the reality on the ground of occupation, apartheid, and ethnic cleansing.

Resources:

- [1] [Zionist tour for Muslim-Americans sparks anger in Palestine](#) (1/18/15)
- [2] [Islamophobia bankroller behind organizer of Israel junket for US “Muslim leaders”](#) (1/4/15)
- [3] [And the Faithwashing Continues: Second Cohort of Muslim Leadership Initiative Participants Leave for Israel](#) (1/2/15)
- [4] [An Interfaith Trojan Horse: Faithwashing Apartheid and Occupation](#) (7/1/2014)
- [5] [Key BDS Developments in 2014](#)

To sign on, visit <http://bit.ly/1yTo1dg>.

Signed,

[Organizations]

US Palestinian Community Network (USPCN)  
 Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM)  
 US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation  
 US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (USACBI)  
 Interfaith Peace-Builders  
 Al-Awda, The Palestine Right To Return Coalition  
 Al-Awda-NY  
 American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
 American Arab Fourm  
 American Islamic Services Foundation  
 American Muslims for Palestine  
 American Muslims for Palestine-MN  
 American University Students for Justice in Palestine  
 Arab Cultural & Community Center  
 Birmingham Islamic Society, Alabama  
 Boycott for Peace  
 CODEPINK: Women for Peace  
 Drew University Students for Justice in Palestine  
 Green Party of Florida  
 Islamic Circle of North America Council for Social Justice  
 Jewish Voice for Peace Santa Cruz  
 Jews for Palestinian Right of Return

Karama, San Diego  
 Labor for Palestine  
 Latino Muslims Of New York  
 MuslimGirl.net  
 Muslim Chaplains Association  
 Muslim Renaissance Group  
 The Muslim Street  
 Muslim American Society  
 Muslim Student Association at University of South Florida  
 Muslims in Development  
 North Texas BDS  
 Pace University Students for Justice in Palestine  
 Peace and Integration Council of North America – PICNA  
 Penn State Students for Justice in Palestine  
 Revolutionary Student Coordinating Committee  
 Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network  
 St Louis Palestine Solidarity Committee  
 Students Allied for Freedom and Equality at University of Michigan  
 Students for a Democratic Society- UT Arlington  
 Students for Justice in Palestine California State University, Fullerton  
 Students for Justice in Palestine at the College of Staten Island  
 Students for Justice in Palestine, DePaul  
 Students for Justice In Palestine at Florida International University  
 Students for Justice in Palestine Loyola University Chicago  
 Students for Justice in Palestine Northwestern University  
 Students for Justice in Palestine at UCLA  
 Students for Justice in Palestine at University of California Riverside  
 Students for Justice in Palestine – University of New Mexico  
 Students for Justice in Palestine University of Florida  
 Students for Justice in Palestine University of South Florida  
 Syrian American Council of South Florida  
 Valley Ranch Islamic Center  
 The YA-YA Network

(55 total)

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 Ahmed Shaikh

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Saif Syed  
Sajid Anwar  
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Shaik Kamil  
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Sharif Battikhi, American Islamic Services Foundation  
Sharmin Hossain, The YA-YA Network  
Shereen Aly  
Sherif Ibrahim  
Siti Syazana  
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Sofia Arias, International Socialist Organization  
Soraya Valley  
Suhad Khatib  
Suraia Sahar, Afghans United for Justice  
Suzanne Adely  
Taha Hassane, Islamic Center of San Diego  
Taher Herzallah  
Talha Khan  
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Tasnim Motala  
Terrina Aguilar  
Todd Gallinger  
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